

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation 96-5

to the Department of Energy

July 13, 1995

Mr. Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Grumbly:

Members of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) greatly appreciate your recent efforts to open up the budget process and allow stakeholders to review and comment on the development of a budget for the Environmental Management program for Fiscal Year '97. We believe that your efforts will allow you to present a budget to the Administration and Congress that is more defensible and truly reflects the priorities necessary to complete your mission at weapons complex sites across the country.

As you are aware, the managers at the Rocky Flats site have sought stakeholder input in the budget and planning process for the past several years. Rocky Flats stakeholders respect the need to work within budgetary limitations and apply resources to the areas of greatest benefit and need. To this end, the stakeholders at Rocky Flats agreed earlier this year that given fiscal restraints, it would be possible to defer activities in the cleanup program to free up money to be spent on more urgent plutonium stabilization activities. The local community fears the dangers posed by inadequate storage conditions for the 14 tons of plutonium that exist so close to our homes and businesses, and is willing to defer less urgent cleanup activities to see that these dangers are ameliorated. The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board supports this deferment as long as conditions set forth by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the CAB are met. Attached for your consideration is a copy of the letter sent by our organization to Mr. Mark Silverman regarding this agreement and the related conditions. It is important for you to know that the budget submitted by Rocky Flats during the Internal Review Board process was one that was supported by Rocky Flats stakeholders and reflected the priorities and wishes of this local community.

ADMIN RECORD

It is with great dismay then, that the CAB learned of the new requirements - specifically to set aside a large contingency fund for potential work in Building 371 - that were added by DOE Headquarters during the IRB process without increasing the funding available for Rocky Flats. Our understanding is that your office believes the money for this contingency can be achieved by increases in productivity. If local Rocky Flats stakeholders had believed going into the budget development process that there was a potential to save this amount of money through productivity increases, there would never have been an agreement to defer cleanup milestones.

The CAB does not object to the idea of having money set aside for Building 371 contingencies. In fact it is wise policy. We object to the requirement that funding for this contingency come out of the budget already agreed upon by the local stakeholders. Members of the CAB respectfully request that your office increase the Rocky Flats budget above the \$585 million target to include an additional \$30 million for the contingency fund. Otherwise, we will find it necessary to reconsider our previous agreement to defer cleanup milestones.

We look forward to your timely written response to this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Murakami
Chair

cc: Mr. Mark Silverman, RFFO
Governor Roy Romer
The Honorable David Skaggs
Mr. Steve Tarlton, CDPHE Rocky Flats Program
Mr. Martin Hestmark, EPA Region VIII

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

[Back to Index CAB Recommendations](#)

[Home](#) | [Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)